

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
POPULATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 25, 2008
MAG Office, Saguaro Room
302 North 1st Ave, Phoenix

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

George Pettit, Gilbert, Chairman
*Bryant Powell, Apache Junction
John Vater, Avondale
A-Brian Rose, Buckeye
Gary Neiss, Carefree
*Usama Abujbarah, Cave Creek
David de la Torre, Chandler
A-Mark Smith, El Mirage
*Terry Yergan, Gila River Indian Community
Thomas Ritz, Glendale
Katie Wilken, Goodyear
A-Bob Thaxton for Mark Johnson, Guadalupe
Sonny Culbreth, Litchfield Park
Tony Bianchi for Wahid Alam, Mesa

John Verdugo for Matt Holm, Maricopa County
A-Molly Hood, Paradise Valley
Ed Boik for Peoria
Tim Tilton, Phoenix
Phillip Bolduc, Queen Creek
Ruben Guerrero for Bryan Meyers, Salt River Pima-
Maricopa Indian Community
Harry Higgins, Scottsdale
A-Janice See, Surprise
A-Sherri Lesser for Lisa Collins, Tempe
*Miles Johnson, Wickenburg
Ann McCracken, Valley Metro
A-Vince Micallef, Youngtown

* Not in attendance

A - Participated via audioconference

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Travis Ashbaugh, CAAG
Richard Turner, Fountain Hills
A-Greg Montes, Glendale
Brian Wells, Mesa
Max Enterline, Phoenix

Dave Williams, Queen Creek
Shawny Ekadis, Queen Creek
Jason Crampton, Chandler
Heidi Pahl, MAG
Jeff Romine, MAG

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair George Pettit.

2. Call to the Audience

No comments were made by the audience.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2008

Max Enterline asked for clarification on the LUCA deadlines in the January 22nd meeting minutes. Heidi Pahl explained that at the time of the January POPTAC meeting, the deadlines were as written in the minutes, but since then, the Census Bureau has changed it so that entities participating in LUCA have 120 days from receipt of their materials to complete LUCA. Ms. Pahl said she would provide more information about LUCA due dates under that agenda item. Harry Higgins moved, John Vater seconded and it was unanimously recommended to approve the meeting minutes of January 22, 2008.

4. Census 2010 Update

4a. Local Update of Census Address Program

Heidi Pahl said the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program provides jurisdictions with an opportunity to update the Census Bureau's address file that is used to distribute Census questionnaires to residents within their community. Ms. Pahl noted all MAG member agencies have signed up for the LUCA program, received the address list/materials and are to return their comments to the Census Bureau's Regional Office 120 days from receipt of materials. She distributed the LUCA due dates for all MAG member agencies.

4b. 2008 Boundary and Annexation Survey

Heidi Pahl said the Census Bureau has distributed its 2008 Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) to contacts of local jurisdictions for review and update. She noted the deadline for BAS is April 1st in order for BAS changes to be included in the American Community Survey (ACS) and July 1, 2008 Census Bureau population estimates. Ms. Pahl mentioned that MAG held a BAS Workshop February 26th to provide policy and technical support as needed. She referred members to Attachment One, a list of question and answers from the BAS Workshop.

Tim Tilton asked if BAS is submitted to the Census Bureau by MAG. Heidi Pahl replied that the 2008 BAS is submitted to the Census Bureau by each jurisdiction.

4c. 2010 Participant Statistical Areas Program

Tim Tilton informed that final criteria for the Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) was recently published in the Federal Register. He said it is different from the preliminary criteria for census tract and block group and that the final criteria means less work for the jurisdictions. Mr. Tilton noted that MAG would be working with the Census Bureau geography staff on how to handle the renumbering and census geography changes and issues. He said suggestions from this meeting will be presented to the Adhoc POPTAC and then to POPTAC. Thomas Ritz asked if information would be blocked out for American Community Survey (ACS) data and other socio-economic indicators. Tim Tilton replied that 1,200 is the minimum population for statistical reliability. Mr. Tilton continued that it is possible that the Census Bureau may block out certain data for block groups with a population under 1,200 for confidentiality reasons. Mr. Tilton remarked that the ACS is sample size is 1 in 40.

Heidi Pahl explained that the PSAP is being coordinated by MAG with input from member agencies. She noted that Attachment Two is a summary of the final criteria for PSAP entities. She referred

members to the four wall maps: potential census tract changes, based on 2010 population estimates; potential census tract changes, based on 2010 housing estimates; potential block group changes, based on 2010 population estimates; potential block group changes, based on 2010 housing estimates. She noted these maps were also available on the MAG web site for today's POPTAC meeting. She explained the maps.

4.d. Miscellaneous Census Items

Heidi Pahl mentioned that the Census Bureau sent an E-News update at the beginning of March which she forwarded to POPTAC members. She said that part of the update was to encourage jurisdictions to organize a complete count committee for their community. She mentioned that for Census 2000, the City of Phoenix formed a successful complete count committee and their work was in addition to the marketing and outreach efforts of the US Census Bureau. She said the Census Bureau would like to present a video to POPTAC at a future meeting illustrating the benefits of community complete count committees.

Heidi Pahl noted that Phoenix was selected as one of the locations for an Early Local Census Office (ELCO). She reported that they plan to open the ELCO in September 2008, but they have not determined a location for this office yet. She said they will need help recruiting staff for the management team that will work in that office.

Heidi Pahl added that the Census Bureau has begun one-on-one consultations with the tribal governments and will continue these meetings through mid-summer. The goal is to improve the count of Native Americans both on and off reservations.

Heidi Pahl noted that one member agency asked a question about redistricting, but since redistricting does not occur until 2011, that issue would be put on hold until closer to the 2010 Census.

She noted that a draft 2010 Census timeline is available as a handout.

5. Data Collection for Preparation of July 1, 2008 Resident Population Updates

Heidi Pahl noted that the Arizona Department of Commerce (ADOC) is getting ready for the preparation of July 1, 2008 resident population updates. She said MAG collects, on behalf of DOC, the data needed for the estimates: annexations, housing unit completions and population in group quarters.

5.a. Annexations

Heidi Pahl said that the annexations for July 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008 are due to MAG on April 11, 2008. Ms. Pahl explained that MAG staff has assembled a draft list of annexations that were adopted during this time period. She said the annexation data is from the Maricopa County Elections Department and the annexations submitted to MAG from member agencies. She reported that an annexation table will be emailed to MAG POPTAC members, along with the ADOC documentation that needs to be completed by each agency. Each member agency is requested to review the annexation table, populate the ADOC documents and send the completed documents to MAG. She stated that MAG needs to submit annexation data to ADOC by April 21st.

George Pettit asked when MAG would be sending out the annexation information to cities. Heidi Pahl replied that the data would be sent to member agencies around April 1st.

Max Enterline asked if the group quarters population will also be due to MAG by April 11th. Jeff Romine said ADOC is not clear as to whether or not group quarters data needs to be collected by April 21st, but that he would ask ADOC for clarification and let members know.

Jeff Romine said that he will also find out if ADOC will send duplicate requests for data to member agencies. Arizona POPTAC recommended that the Arizona COGs may serve as the primary data collector for ADOC population data in the future. However, the annexation data is the first of the needed primary data from member agencies for population estimates. It is MAG's understanding that request will only be made by MAG for this primary data. He said there will be one submittal for annexations to DOC and MAG intends to submit this data on behalf of the member agencies.

Harry Higgins asked if ADOC would be compiling and distributing the CES and QCEW employment data. Jeff Romine said yes, and ADOC is now the home of Labor Market Information, and will be the responsible department in the State of Arizona for this data also. MAG will work with them to gain access to this detailed employment data for member agencies and MAG work program activities.

George Pettit asked if ADOC will send an email to the highest elected official. Jeff Romine said in past years the primary data requests were sent to the highest elected official, the city manager and the provided data contact. He will double check with ADOC staff to ensure that a duplicate requests for data from ADOC is not made of member agencies. Mr. Romine said that MAG sent ADOC a completed contact list of annexation contacts for all MAG member agencies. George Pettit encouraged POPTAC members to be aware that annexation data will be requested of them in the near future.

5b. Residential Completions

Jeff Romine explained Attachment Three, two tables which show the total residential completions by year from 1990 through 2007; and residential completions by quarter and by type in 2007. He gave a brief presentation on the analysis of residential completion data provided by MAG member agencies from 1990 to 2007. This presentation highlighted both the changes in regional housing activity, and a look at housing completions within parts of the region.

Max Enterline asked if natural resource constraints could be attributed to the spike in 2004. Jeff Romine replied that when there is demand for a certain product (i.e. cement) there are higher costs for that product. He explained that part of the reason for the spike in 2004 was due to unusual weather patterns, resulting in a perceived shortage of available housing. This perception, along with strong population and household growth resulting from new employment growth, led to increased investor activity, and help stimulate the housing market throughout the region. Mr. Romine said with a residential and commercial construction slowdown, cement prices have stabilized and fallen. He said price change in other construction commodities is actually mitigated, compared to what the region experienced two years ago.

George Pettit asked if there is any information on net inventory of residential permits issued, but unused at each agency. Jeff Romine replied that all permits do not have the same deadlines, so he does not know the number of permits by agency. Mr. Romine added that from a broader perspective the overall housing market is now moving up to an average inventory of more than 6 months. This

risers to as high as 2 years of available houses in certain submarkets. He went on to explain that this “time on market” statistically has actually stopped increasing recently. This change is more likely a result of some people are pulling their houses off the market.

Jeff Romine distributed a table comparing Census Bureau county population estimates to Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES) population estimates from 2005-2007. He noted that the 2005 Census Survey is not used for any other census program, therefore in 2005 the Census Bureau and ADES population estimates are shown on the table. He described the differences in the numbers and identified that there is a lower number reported by the Census Bureau for the State of Arizona population estimates. He said based a MAG analysis, the State of Arizona, and therefore MAG member agencies, may be missing out on approximately 2 million dollars of interstate and highway maintenance money resulting from a potentially lower Census Bureau estimate. The MAG analysis did not explore possible ramifications of these estimates on human and social service federal funded programs, or any other federal funded or revenue sharing programs.

Jeff Romine suggested that MAG consider a challenge of the Census Bureau’s population estimates. He said no Arizona community has not submitted a challenge in the past. Jeff Romine noted that MAG has shared some information on this issue with colleagues at Pima Association of Governments (PAG). They are also considering challenging the Census estimates. Jeff Romine noted that new community estimates will come out in early June.

To facilitate a possible challenge, MAG is gathering information on building permit data submitted from the member agencies to the Census Bureau. George Pettit said he would like POPTAC to receive a more detailed briefing on this issue. He requested MAG staff prepare a briefing for the next POPTAC meeting.

6. 2007 Employer Database

Jeff Romine reported that the anticipated release date of the draft 2007 Employer Database is April 1st. Jeff Romine said he is adding North American Industry Classification Codes (NAICS) codes and double checking some data. The database includes information about firms and employment in the MAG region, and includes firms of 5 or more employees. He said it has 122,000 records. Jeff Romine said he will also distribute a lookup table for the NAICS codes.

Harry Higgins asked the source of data in the employer database. Jeff Romine said the primary source of data is the Trip Reduction Program (TRP) for fifty or more employees and Harris Info Source Corporation which is part of Dunn and Bradstreet for fifty or less employees, and it is supplemented by phone calls for information on public employment, as well as member agency review. Harry Higgins noted that of the 7,500 Scottsdale employers, 600 had faulty addresses, which he corrected and agreed to send to MAG. Jeff Romine thanked all POPTAC members and their staff for their review of the MAG Employer Database.

Brian Rose asked why MAG requested information for 3 employees or more, if the database contains information showing 5 or more employees/firm. Jeff Romine responded that MAG releases to the public and consultants, the employer database with 5 or more employees. He said there is some question as to the accuracy and reliability of the data when there is under 5 employees per firm.

7. 2035 MAG Projections

Jeff Romine reminded that at the January 2008 MAG POPTAC meeting, members approved the use of base data and methods consistent with the 2007 Socioeconomic Projections to extend the projections by Municipal Planning Area (MPA) and Regional Analysis Zone (RAZ) to 2035. A 25-year planning horizon is needed to support potential transportation planning projects. Jeff Romine said that the 2035 projections are being completed to analyze potential future transportation illustrative projects, although no requests for projects have been received for analysis. He said the 2035 projections are based on all the data used from the 2030 set of projections. Heidi Pahl reminded POPTAC that the due date for comments on the 2035 projections is March 28, 2008.

8. Data Collection Efforts and Timeline

Heidi Pahl said that MAG continues to collect land use data from member agencies on General Plan amendments and development projects. She said the land use data collected are used in preparing socioeconomic projections and conducting regional analysis. She noted that a summary of all the documents collected from member agencies in calendar year 2007 is included as Attachment Five. She described Attachment Five. Ms. Pahl reported that an email was sent to each POPTAC member with a detailed list of land use documents submitted to MAG last year. She reminded members to review the accuracy and completeness of this dataset and send comments to MAG by April 2, 2008. She also said that MAG maintains an electronic and hard copy land use library of general plans, amendments to the general plans, major and minor developments, zoning changes, preliminary and final plats and reports such as the Economic Outlook or Circulation Master Plan for a community.

Heidi Pahl reviewed Attachment Four, the six month POPTAC task and due date schedule.

John Vater asked for a list of documents MAG wants for the data collection efforts. Heidi Pahl replied general plans, major and minor amendments to the general plans, major and minor developments, zoning changes, preliminary and final plats and reports.

George Pettit asked for clarification on the size of developments MAG collects. Heidi Pahl explained that there used to be a category for Regionally Significant Development Projects (RSDP), which were projects greater than 640 acres, but that analysis is not done any longer, unless requested. She noted that she would like member agencies to submit to MAG all developments no matter how small.

Max Enterline said that the January POPTAC meeting minutes stated that the BAS deadline was April 4th. Heidi Pahl said that in January, the Census Bureau stated that the deadline was April 4th, but since that time, the Census Bureau has confirmed that the BAS deadline is April 1st in order for annexation changes to be reported in the ACS and Census Bureau July 1st population estimates.

9. Regional Economic and Growth Outcomes (REGO)

Jeff Romine noted that MAG staff is working to complete the REGO report. He said a work group meeting has been held to review analysis and associated maps. The suggestions from this meeting, and other reviews, have been incorporated in the report. He said a work group meeting has been scheduled for April 7, 2008, and a final draft report will be presented to POPTAC for consideration and action in the near future.

10. Regional Updates

David de la Torre presented the City of Chandler General Plan Update. He said this process started August 2007, and he hopes Council will adopt the Plan in June so that it can be ratified by voters in the Fall of 2008. He said he welcomes feedback and comments to the General Plan. It is available on the City of Chandler web site. He acknowledged Jason Crampton for his work on the General Plan and attending the night meetings. He said the theme of their General Plan is build out and beyond. He explained that Chandler is running out of land as 90% of Chandler's land is developed or committed for development. Chandler wants to be a sustainable city with a balance of land uses. Mr. De la Torre explained the planning "cycle of life." He said a strong job base creates a demand for housing which will provide investment into current housing stock. Continued demand in housing will provide support for commercial and in turn provide city services and a favorable tax environment.

Max Enterline asked if Sun Lakes presented any issues being near Chandler and not being incorporated. David de la Torre replied that Sun Lakes did not present any problems and he believes they do not want to be a part of the City of Chandler. He said that Sun Lakes has their own water and fire service and would not necessarily have to rely on city services if they were annexed.

11. Next Meeting of MAG POPTAC

George Pettit said the next meeting of the MAG POPTAC is scheduled for Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.